

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4424

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, YO, US
SUBJECT: TERRORISM AGAINST YUGOSLAVS

FOR VEST FROM EAGLEBURGER

REF: BELGRADE 4184

1. RAPIDITY WITH WHICH FEDERAL AND LOCAL
AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED TO SECURE INDICTMENTS AGAINST NEW YORK
TERRORISTS IS FIRST-RATE. SPEEDY TRIAL AND QUICK PUNISHMENT OF THOSE
FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMES BY FAR OUR BEST ANSWER TO YUGOSLAV CHARGES
OF LACK OF CONCERN BY USG OVER TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER,
BOMBING OVER WEEKEND OF PITTSBURGH HOME OF JOHN BADOVINAC,
PRESIDENT OF CROATION FRATERNAL BROTHERHOOD, HIGHLIGHTS TREND
TOWARDS INCREASED VIOLENCE BY EXTREMIST EMIGRES IN US AND
UNDERLINES NEED FOR USG TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE ARE
FURTHER STEPS WE SHOULD BE TAKING TO REDUCE GROWING DOMESTIC
AS WELL AS FOREIGN POLICY COSTS OF YUGOSLAV-RELATED
TERRORISM. PER FINAL PARA REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE MY
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. RESOURCES. I REALIZE THAT US AUTHORITIES CAN ONLY GO SO
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FAR IN HEADING OFF POTENTIAL INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND. JUDGING
BY THE RECORD, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE MORE CAN BE DONE. I
HAVE IN MIND WHAT WAS STATED IN EMBASSY'S ANNUAL POLICY
ASSESSMENT, I.E., INTENSIFYING "OUR EFFORTS TO INFORM
OURSELVES ABOUT TERRORIST-SUPPORTING EMIGRE GROUPS." I BELIEVE
THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD URGE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
AND FBI TO APPLY MORE RESOURCES TO STEM A TREND THAT IS

PROVING INJURIOUS TO LIVES AND PROPERTY IN THE US, TO OUR EFFORTS TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND TO OUR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

3. LIAISON. AS A COMPANION TO THE ABOVE, I WOULD ALSO URGE THAT JUSTICE/FBI TAKE STEPS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT LIAISON WITH THE GOY SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. BOTH THE FRENCH AND FRG AMBASSADORS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THEIR INTERIOR MINISTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE YUGOSLAV MINISTRY, AND THIS HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN THEIR RELATIONS. THE YUGOSLAVS ARE MORE CONFIDENT THAN BEFORE BECAUSE THEY HAVE AN APPRECIATION THAT THE FRENCH AND GERMANS ARE DOING SOMETHING. AND SPECIFIC SUSPICIONS ABOUT INTENTIONS OF WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AND POLICE SERVICES SEEM TO DECREASE A BIT WITH DIRECT CONTACT. (GOY HAS LONG THOUGHT FBI IN LEAGUE WITH ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISTS.) I CAN SEE NO HARM FROM SUCH A RELATIONSHIP FOR OUR PART (ALTHOUGH THERE MAY WELL BE LEGAL QUESTIONS OF WHICH I AM NOT AWARE). WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIVULGE OUR INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE US BUT WE WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO LEARN WHAT THE GOY KNOWS ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH APPEARS TO BE A GREAT DEAL. THEY MAY WELL HAVE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE USG. SUCH LIAISON

MIGHT ALSO AVIOD LACK OF CLARITY IN GOY COMMUNICATION TO US ON THIS QUESTION, AS EVIDENT IN CASE OF "WARNINGS" BEFORE ATTACK ON UN MISSION. APPROVAL OF LIAISON WOULD BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

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BY GOY A SUBSTANTIAL STEP FORWARD.

4. POLICY STATEMENTS. WHEREVER INCIDENTS OCCUR USG IS QUICK TO CONDEMN TERRORISTS' METHODS BUT MUCH LESS EXPLICITLY THEIR SEPARATIST GOALS. THIS DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED HERE. GENERALIZED STATEMENTS ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY (AND IN UN MISSION CASE EVEN THIS NOT PART OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S INITIAL REMARKS) ARE MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN A DIRECT STATEMENT THAT "USG DEPLORES THE SEPARATIST GOALS OF THESE TERRORISTS." ALSO IMPORTANT "WHO" IN USG MAKES STATEMENT. WHEN AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF PUBLICLY CONDEMNED YUGOSLAV EMIGRE TERRORISM SEVERAL YEARS AGO IT HAD MUCH GREATER IMPACT BOTH ON GOY AND AS SIGNAL TO TERRORIST-INCLINED EMIGRES INSIDE AUSTRALIA. WE WOULD HOPE USG COULD FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE CLEARER, HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGE TO DOMESTIC AUDIENCE.

5. ARTUKOVIC. NO SINGLE ACTION WOULD GIVE GREATER CREDIBILITY TO OUR DISAPPROVAL OF CROATIA SEPARATISM THAN THE DEPORTATION OF ARTUKOVIC. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE JUSTICE AND INS CASE AGAINST HIM? THE CANADIANS HAVE JUST SUCCEEDED IN DEPORTING A YUGOSLAV TERRORIST WHO ENTERED ILLEGALLY LIKE ARTUKOVIC.

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